

MINUTES

Of the Lower Canoochee Association, in Session with the Lower Lott's Creek Church, Bulloch County, Georgia, from the 8th to the 10th of October, 1864.

1st. The Introductory was preached by Elder W. F. HOGARTH, from Job 9th chapter, and latter clause of 2nd verse, "but how should man be just with God."

2nd. After an intermission of thirty minutes the messengers from the several Churches convened in the meeting house, and the Association was opened by singing and prayer by Elder W. F. RODGERS.

3rd. The letters from the several churches were called for, handed in and read, messengers names enrolled, and statistics minuted.

4th. Organized the body by re-electing brother J. G. WILLIAMS Moderator, and BRO. J. WILSON, Clerk.

5th. Invited ministering brethren of our faith and order to seats with us, and to help us in our deliberations.

6th. Appointed Committees as follows, viz: On preaching, J. Deloach, Wm. Lee, M. DONALDSON, with the delegates from this Church. On business, brethren W. F. HOGARTH, J. G. WILLIAMS and M. DONALDSON. To examine corresponding minutes, N. J. Dugger, J. Branan and S. Kennedy.

7th. Called for correspondence from sister Associations, and received from the Upper Canoochee a letter and messengers Elders D. J. LAMB, J. W. FIELDS and brother M. Roundtree, which were cordially received by the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

8th. The Committee on preaching report as follows: Sunday, A. M., Elder D. J. LAMB; followed by J. W. FIELDS; P. M., Elder W. F. ROGERS preached, closed by W. F. HOGARTH.

9th. On motion adjourned until Monday morning, nine o'clock. Prayer by W. F. HOGARTH.

SUNDAY MORNING, 10 o'clock.

The brethren came forward in the order of their names, and preached to a large and attentive congregation.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 o'clock.

1st. The Association met pursuant to adjournment, prayer by Elder W. F. ROGERS.

2nd. Called the roll and read the decorum.

3rd. Called for, read and adopted the report of the brethren on the arrangement of business.

4th. Called for further correspondence, and received from the Primitive Ebenezer, a letter and minutes by her messenger Elder W. F. ROGERS, which were cordially received—the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to said messenger.

5th. Called for the circular letter prepared by Elder J. G. WILLIAMS, which was read and adopted.

6th. Called for the report of the brethren to examine corresponding minutes, who report that they find nothing that materially concerns the body.

7th. Appointed the brethren Wm. Deloach, S. Findley and J. Deloach as a committee to arrange general meetings, who report as follows :

1st. At Lower Black Creek Church, Bryan county, Ga., in October 1864.

2nd. At Mill Creek, Bulloch county, Ga., in January 1865.

3rd. At Ashc's Branch, Bulloch county, Ga., in April 1865.

4th. At Cedar Creek, Tattnall county, Ga., in July 1865.

All to commence on Saturday before the fifth Sunday in their respective months.

8th. Appointed our next Association to convene with the Prince Williams Church, S. C., Beaufort District, twenty-six miles West of Pocatigo Station, on the S. C. R. R., commencing on Saturday, before the second Sunday in October 1865.

9th. Appointed Elder J. G. WILLIAMS to preach the next Introductory and Elder A. KICKALIGHTER his alternate.

10th. Appointed Elder J. WILSON to write the next circular letter.

11th. Appointed correspondence to sister Associations as follows: To the Upper Canoochee, to sit with Limestone Church, Washington county Ga., four miles West of No. 11, C. R. R., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in October 1864, Elder J. G. WILLIAMS, A. KICKALIGHTER, J. WILSON, and brother Benj. Aycock; To the Primitive Ebenezer, to sit with Ramah Church, one and a half mile South West of No. 17, C. R. R., Wilkinson county Ga., commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September 1865, Elder J. G. WILLIAMS, A. KICKALIGHTER, W. F. HOGARTH, M. DONALDSON, J. WILSON,

J. A. DAVIS; brethren S. Kennedy, B. Aycock, N. J. Dugger and John Proctor.

12th. Appointed brother J. WILSON to prepare a corresponding letter.

13th. Took up the case of Upper Lotts Creek Church—after some debating, the case was laid over until our next Association; also, appointed a committee to visit the brethren of said Church, J. G. WILLIAMS, A. KICKALIGHTER and S. Kennedy.

14th. *Resolved*, That we appoint Thursday after the second Sunday in November next, as a day of fasting and prayer to Almighty God, that if, in the counsel of His Heavenly will, that He would avert the judgments now upon our land.

15th. Agreed to have 500 copies of these minutes printed, the Clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of the same.

16th. Callen for contributions.

17th. On motion for adjournment the minutes were read, and then closed by singing and prayer by brother W. F. HOGARTH.

J. G. WILLIAMS, Moderator;

JASPER WILSON, Clerk.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

*The Lower Canoochee Association to the churches of which
She is composed, sendeth christian salutation.*

DEAR AND MUCH ESTEEMED BRETHREN IN THE LORD:—

As there is but little room on our pages for what is commonly called a Circular Letter; we feel ourselves admonished to keep within a small compass, but while we occupy within our measure we probably cannot be better employed than to be trying to provoke one another unto love and to good works. The Lord, has through all ages, wonderfully preserved His poor and afflicted people, even under their sorest trials and sharpest afflictions. Were we to glance a thought to the sufferings of the Saints from righteous Abel to those of latter times, comprehending in a single view, the vast scene of misery endured by the church in the Eastern world; and even down to the present time; and when our thoughts survey the many battle fields on which many of our dear Brethren, our loving sons, husbands of wives have fallen, does it not seem sufficient to move a heart of stone and fill every soul with solemn awe, in view of what sin has brought upon us as a nation? Dear Brethren let us reflect for a moment and ask the question, why is the Lord's anger kindled against us, and why has the God of Jacob forsaken us and left us to wail, to weep, and to mourn? This is the effect of sin, disobedience and folly, and we need only to examine the pages of the New Testament and our own experience on this subject. Here let us take a brief view of the progress of the Christian to a state of cold indifference in the things of Religion: First he begins to neglect the duties that lie between his own heart and God; he does not come daily before the Lord, in faithful self-examination in secret devotions and supplications for his renewing grace, and his conscience at times becomes quiet under the omission of those duties which he once felt so much under obligation to perform; next we find his afflictions set on earthly things; he begins to neglect the close watch over himself, and becomes impatient under disappointments, and easily irritated; his religious admonition to his family begins to be lightly attended to, or entirely neglected, and confidence is diminished for want of grace in his deportment, his seat is sometimes vacant in conference and he don't enjoy himself in the company of Saints, he is without a word of admonition or comfort for any one; and when he retires, instead of returning to sweet communion with God, in secret devotion and self examination, he retires under the cutting reproaches of his own conscience, where he forms some feeble resolutions to amend his life, while a gloom obscures his future prospects; now

he can't trust in the Lord as he would wish, his heart is troubled with dread for fear he is a deceived soul, and to conclude the few hints on this subject, we tell you that the preacher can't comfort the christian unless he offer some animating subject to move upon his passions, until he forgets his sin and misery for a few moments, and perhaps by the time he returns home his feast at the meeting house is forgotten. Now if any of whom we address labors under the effects of his neglect of the things that pertain to his happiness here, and the honor of his profession, let him not deceive himself, that it requires an extraordinary influence of the Spirit of religion to enable him to commence his return to his duty, for to correct our habits and to improve our present condition by the aid of grace is a daily work which the Lord has evidently assigned every Child of grace according to the measure of faith, which none can neglect and avoid the mournful consequences. but, although the christian may err he cannot utterly fall, for grace will enable him to rejoice in view of the kind promises of God, and of future glory amidst all his affliction and tears in this mortal state, because he trusts in the living God, and when he is tempted his soul flies to her present help, and Grace crowns him with victory over his enemy. Then Dear Brethren, let us return unto the Lord and acknowledge our sins, and may God help us to repent of our iniquities and restore peace and comfort to Zion and to our once happy but now troubled country.

J. G. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

JASPER WILSON, Clerk,

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Lower Canoochee to sister Associations with whom she corresponds.

DEAR BRETHREN IN THE LORD: Through the mercy of an All-Wise God, we have been blest through the past year, and been enabled to meet together in another associate capacity, to transact the business of our Association, and we can say to you that it was done in peace and brotherly love; we were glad to see and receive your friendly correspondence, and the messages of love communicated to us through them, in the exhibiting of the word. Our next Association will sit with the Prince Williams Church, S. C., Beaufort District., commencing Saturday before the second Sunday in October next.

J. G. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

JASPER WILSON, Clerk.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1 WE Believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

2. WE Believe in the Fall of Man, and his inability to recover himself.

3. WE Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God.

4. WE Believe in particular Election, effectual Calling of the Elect, and final perseverance of the Saints.

5. WE Believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God.

6. WE Believe that Baptism, the Lord's Supper and the washing of the Saint's Feet, are Ordinances of Jesus Christ, and true believers are the only fit subjects of those Ordinances, and believe the only true mode of Baptism is Immersion.

7 WE Believe that no minister has the right to the administration of the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, only such as are regularly called and come under the Imposition of hands by a Presbytery.

8. WE Believe in a Final Judgment; in the future state of reward and punishment, and that of eternal duration.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

JASPER WILSON, Clerk.

RULES.

By which the Lower Canoochee Association shall be governed while in Session.

1. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the Churches whose names are inserted in their Letters.

2. This Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, chosen by the Messengers present.

3. This Association shall open by Singing and Prayer.

4. This Association shall attend to all petitions and queries found in the Letters from the churches; and make such regulations and give such advice as they think proper.

5. All business shall come into this Association by a move and a second; and every move that is seconded shall be taken up by the Association and decided, except it be withdrawn by the mover.

6. There shall be no talking in time of public speech, and no reflections shall be cast upon the speaker.

7. No person shall be interrupted in the time of public speech unless he depart from the subject in debate, and then only by the Moderator.

8. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject without leave from the Moderator.

9. A majority of this Association shall govern in all cases, and no member shall absent himself at any time without leave from the Moderator.

10. All violations of these Rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator.

11. A majority of this Association may alter and amend these Rules at any time.

12. And as there are so many institutions of men, (called Benevolent Institutions) and this Association believing it to be her duty to provide for the general union of the Churches, she, therefore, declares, non-fellowship with all the unscriptural institutions of the day, such as Theological Schools, State Conventions, Missionary Societies, Bible Societies, Tract Societies, and Temperance Societies, (so called) and all their kindred relations, holding them as unscriptural.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

JASPER WILSON, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, The assemblage of the Delegates at Lime Stone Church, Washington County, Ga., on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1829, from the several Churches, viz: Newhope, Hebron, Limestone, Hines, Mill Creek, Fox Bay, Canoochee, Lake, Upper Black Creek, Bethlehem, Little Brier Creek, Gum-log, Bethesda, having then and there agreed and covenanted together to become united in one body, called the United Baptist Conference or Association; but at the Association held at Lower Lott's Creek, Bulloch county, in the year 1847, agreed then to become two bodies for convenience, called Upper and Lower Canoochee Associations; and we the Lower Canoochee Association, composed of the several Churches, viz: Nevil's Creek, Mill Creek, Elem, Upper Lott's Creek, Jones' Lake, Lower Lott's Creek, Bethlehem, Upper Black Creek, Line's Fellowship, Ashe's Branch, Lower Black Creek, Beard's Creek, Cedar Creek, Deloache's, Watermellon Creek, Elbethel, Fox Bay, Salem and Gum Branch, do agree to unite on the following principles:

1. This Association shall, if they think proper meet annually as an advisory Council.

2. This Association shall be composed of Messengers from the several Churches so that each church may have two Messengers, if they choose, and no more, and the Messengers' names shall be inserted in their Letters.

3. This Association shall have power to make its own rules to govern itself; but none of its Rules shall be binding on the churches, for they are free and of right ought to be.

4. It shall be the duty of this Association to give her best advice in cases of difficulty, and to endeavor to keep up a union among the churches composing her body and arrange General Meetings.

5. This Association shall admit into its body any Church whom they find sound in faith and moral in practice. Also, if any church in order wishes to withdraw from this body, she may at her discretion on application, have a letter of dismission.

6th. As the love of money is the root of all evil, and has produced so much distress among Christians, we, wishing to live in peace, therefore, this Association shall not engage in nor in anywise encourage any religious speculation called Missionary, or by any other name, under pretence of supporting the Gospel.

7. We, the Churches, composing this Association, believing the Books of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, declare we take the New Testament for the Rules of our Faith and Practice, for we are not under the Law, but under Grace.

JOHN G. WILLIAMS, Moderator.

JASPER WILSON, Clerk.

SCALE OF THE CHURCHES.

Number.	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	Ordained Ministers' Names in SMALL CAPS. MESSENGERS' NAMES.	Baptised.	Received by Letter.	Recommended.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total Number.	Contributions.	Time of Meeting.
1	Prince Williams.....	Beaufort District, S. C.....	W. F. HOGARTH.....	2	2			1	3	105	5 56	
2	Black Creek.....	" " " ".....	C. Anderson, N. Crapps.....	2	1	1		1		55	5	
3	Sardis.....	" " " ".....	Not Represented.....									
4	Fox Bay Reedy Creek.....	Tattnall Ga.....	S. Findly.....	7					1	35	5	
5	Lower Lott's Creek.....	Bulloch.....	J. G. WILLIAMS, A. KICKALIGHTER.....	4					1	55	23 80	
6	Lake M. House.....	" " " ".....	R. Mercer, J. Green.....	2	1				1	59	10	
7	Lower Black Creek.....	Bryan.....	N. J. Dugger, J. Branan.....	1					1	81	8	
8	Mill Creek.....	Bulloch.....	J. WILSON, A. J. Wilson.....	4				2	7	55	22 75	
9	Lane's M. House.....	" " " ".....	R. A. Lane, Wm. Lee.....			1			1	35	5	
10	Bethlehem.....	" " " ".....	Not Represented.....									
11	Nevill's Creek.....	" " " ".....	M. DONALDSON, G. Hendrix.....			1			1	31	4 25	
12	Ashe's Branch.....	" " " ".....	B. Aycock, Z. Bennett.....	3						25	7	
13	Deloache's M. House.....	" " " ".....	Wm. Deloach, J. Deloach.....	4						31	7	
14	Upper Black Creek.....	" " " ".....	J. Broctor, J. L. Hogans.....	2						46	15	
15	Fellowship.....	" " " ".....	Not Represented.....								3	
16	Anderson's M. House.....	Tattnall.....	B. M. Coleson, J. Lynn.....	4					2	26	10	
17	Beard's Creek.....	" " " ".....	J. Kickaligher, D. Lynn.....	2						41	5 50	
18	Mount Horeb Cedar Creek.....	" " " ".....	S. Kennedy, J. Collins.....	2		1			3	36	16	
				39	4	4		7	13	716	152 85	

Received of Jasper Wilson, Clerk, \$135 for printing 500 copies of these Minutes.—PRINTERS.

